



# DAHONPALAY MOUNTAINEERS



## MT. BATULAO

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Batangas Province
<b>ELEVATION:</b>	811 meters above sea level
<b>LEVEL:</b>	Minor Climb, Level II, Moderate
<b>JUMP-OFF POINTS</b>	Nasugbu Batangas
<b>ESTIMATED BUDGET</b>	P 500.00
<b>IT CREATED BY:</b>	J. Tanega (Thanks to MMS, Mr. L. Henson)

### CORE GROUP & GUEST:

Core Group:

Ian, Jojo, Bhaby, Nono, Bhong, Jane, Melissa, Ellen, Lynne, Dave and Paolo

Guest:

Teddy, Jolab, Thess, Yadz, and Bell

### INFORMATION:

The view of Mt. Batulao's Twin Peaks when you are on your way to Batangas via Tagaytay, is somewhat majestic. It looks different from the usual Philippine Mountains because it resembles the European Alps though a much smaller version. This is due to its tree-less peak covered with cogon grass making it look more like a snow-capped mountain. Mt Batulao is a famous camping ground for scouts and ROTC trainees. This was due to the fact that it is close to Manila and has wide camping and training grounds.

Climbing Mt. Batulao is one exciting experience. The view of the Taal Lake, the Batangas province, the South China Sea and the surrounding mountains like Talamitam and Pico de Loro will definitely fulfill your visual senses. The small open summit will also encourage you to shout, "I am on top of the word!" Batangas that is. Atop the summit, an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary is firmly erected similar to the one on top of Mt. Talamitam.

### LEGEND:

The name Batulao was derived from an annual phenomenon observed by the locals. From the town of Balayan, one can see twin mountains to the east that appear quite distant from each other. But the same scene viewed from Batulao is curiously different. The same mountains seem to move closer. More fascinating is the fact that some time between December 22 and 28 every year, when the sun nestles right in between the two peaks. It creates a scene described by natives as "ilaw sa dalawang bato" (light in between two rocks) or "bato sa ilaw" (light in a rock), from which derived the term Batulao.

### **WHEN & HOW TO GO:**

Climbing Batulao can be done anytime of the year. From Manila, take a bus going to Nasugbu Batangas. After passing by Tagaytay City, some minutes later you will be passing by a junction then the Evercrest Golf course. Alight enter Evercrest. This is the same route to the Don Bosco Spiritual Center, which is the retreat house run by the Salesians. Follow the paved road, which eventually turns left. Continue with this road and after reaching a major junction, take the one on your right. You will be passing by the house until you reach plantations. Since there are many houses, trails are also numerous leading to these houses and small villages so keep gathering information from houses and from the people you meet along the trail. Camp is usually set up along the lower slope of Batulao since summit is small and has no cover for protection.

After the popularity of hiking came in by the late 90s and early 2000, Batulao is one example of how a place has been developed to accommodate this new found livelihood source called eco-tourism. The owners of the campsite have set-up a toilet within the area. Campsite has also been established and marked and is constantly being maintained like applying pesticides to prevent ants from roaming the campsite area. Some makeshift benches have also been set-up. All these for a fee of 20 per camper (2001).

Summit assault is usually done on the next day except if you want to witness the spectacular sunrise. The climb to the summit is via a very steep trail so be careful. The assault to the summit will also require rock scrambling and maybe difficult for people who are afraid of heights. The upper part of Batulao resembles more of Mt. Guiting Guiting with its jagged saw-toothed peaks.

### **POINTS OF INTEREST:**

Batulao is located outside the Nasugbu town proper so you are farther away from the beaches of Nasugbu but on your way home, it's better to go either to Tagaytay or Nasugbu during peak season since buses are usually crowded during those days before it reaches Evercrest. You can ride jeepneys to either Nasugbu or Tagaytay. Batulao is also near the national tourist destination, Tagaytay City. On the way home, you will be passing by some towns of Cavite Province.

### **SUGGESTED ITINERARY:**

<b>DAY 01</b>	
<b>November 04, 2006 (Saturday)</b>	
0830H	Assembly at Jollibee Pacita (Go to Market)
0930H	ETD to Pacita Complex to Evercrest
1200H	ETA Evercrest
1230H	Start Trek (Lunch on trail)
1530H	ETA Campsite, Set Camp, Prepare Dinner
1700H	Dinner, Socialites
2300H	Lights Out

<b>DAY 02</b>	
<b>November 05, 2006 (Sunday)</b>	
0530H	Wake-up call, Prepare Breakfast
0630H	Assault summit
0730H	Summit, Explore
0800H	Start descent (Summit)
0900H	Campsite (Breakcamp)
0930H	Start Descent
1130H	Jump-off, take lunch and bath at jump-off point
1400H	ETD to Evercrest to Pacita, Calamba and Manila

### **MEAL PREPARATION:**

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
Day 1 – Nov 04	Jollibee Pacita be early...	Pack Lunch (baon kayo)	Rice, Adobo, Soup, Veggie
Day 2 – Apr 23	Bread and Can Goods	Lunch at Evercrest	NA

## CHECKLIST:

DESCRIPTION	ITEM
Trekking Attire	T-shirt with warmer or sweat shirt, short, leggings, mountain boots, sandals bandana or cap, rain gear, sunglass, and socks
	Extras: 1 trek attire, jogging pants, socks, towel and undergarments
Equipment and Supplies per individual (IMPORTANT)	Water source available at camp, bring trail water
	Flashlight each with reserved batteries
	1 mess kit (spoon, fork, plate and goblet)
	1 toiletry (tissue, soap, toothpaste)
Group Equipments	Cookset, and stove, lantern and stoves
Meal Contributions	100 pesos each camper for the food, liquor, spices and others.
	Each camper should bring at least 2 can goods and bread.
REMINDERS: Follow the itinerary and NO LATE PLEASE...	

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Batulao trail are exposed so wear protective clothing. You will also passing by a cogonal fields sowear long pants. Temperature is bearable although from the summit, it's colder especially when the winds are strong. No permit is necessary to climb Batulao. Water sources are not available, so bring enough water. The campsites caretaker however can take you to a water source, if he will be present in the campsite. Some store are accessible an hour from the campsite.

## CLIMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

**If there is an established trail, walk in a single line and avoid creating new trails.** Widening of such and formation of new ones can damage the soil and kill the plants crossing the paths of hikers.

**Do not take anything from the forests as souvenir.** If each climber would bring home one souvenir, the future climbers may be left with nothing but ugly remains of a once-beautiful place.

**Avoid disturbing wildlife.** Many species of animals become stressed due to disturbance by man.

**Never leave garbage along the trail or at the campsite.** Oftentimes, the local communities do not have well-managed waste disposals, so it will be better to bring the garbage to the cities for proper disposal.

**For human waste, each climber can dig his own "toilet", about six inches deep, and cover it with soil afterwards.** Common latrines are proven to be bad because the soil cannot break down concentrated amounts of waste in reasonable time; it would be much better to bring along waste treatment gear to bring down the wastes back to the cities for proper disposal.

**Do not bathe or wash dishes along rivers.** The people downstream may be using the water for drinking purposes. Do the washing or bathing about twenty feet (make that 100 ft.) from the river bank. A more acceptable bathing practice is to do it without using soap.

**Before traveling to a foreign culture** or to an isolated village, it is best to learn the locals' culture to avoid embarrassing situations, both to the visitors and to the hosts.

**Be sensitive to the values of the local people.** Tourists may bring culture shock to the villagers and may alter the basic values of the population

**Do not buy souvenir** items made from rare animal or plant species or questionable sources.

**Find out the maximum capacity of the trekking area** before going to prevent over-crowding and to minimize the impacts on the environment.

**Always register with the municipal or barangay** (village) or park office or leave the names and number of the trekkers to any local official at the jump-off point. Tell them the date the group is expected to return so that emergency measures can be adopted the soonest possible time in case of accident. . .